

## CURRICULUM VITAE

David Berger  
Professor of Jewish History  
Bernard Revel Graduate School  
Yeshiva University

Born: June 24, 1943

Married. Three children.

Address: 136-20 71st Road, Flushing, N.Y. 11367. 718-261-2012.

### EDUCATION:

Yeshiva College. B.A. Classical Languages. 1964.

Valedictorian and President of Student Council.

Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, Yeshiva University. Rabbinic Ordination. 1967.

Columbia University. M.A. 1965, Ph.D. 1970. History (Jewish).

Woodrow Wilson Fellowship.

Columbia University Faculty Fellowship.

Woodrow Wilson Dissertation Fellowship.

### OTHER ACADEMIC POSITIONS:

Professor of History, Brooklyn College and the Graduate Center, City University of New York, 1970 -2007 (Graduate Center beginning in 1980; Broeklundian Professor beginning in 2000).

Yeshiva College. Instructor of Bible and Jewish History. 1968-1970.

Visiting Professor of Jewish History. Bernard Revel Graduate School, Yeshiva University. 1975-2007.

Graduate Center, CUNY. Director, Mazer Institute for Research and Advanced Studies in Judaica. 1980-1983.

Judaica Section, Academy of World Civilizations, Moscow. Visiting Professor. Inaugural Semester, Spring, 1989.

Annenberg Research Institute. Fellow. 1989-1990.

Institute for Advanced Studies, Jerusalem. Visiting Fellow. January, 1993. Visiting Lecturer, Summer, 1993.

Horace W. Goldsmith Fellow in Judaic Studies, Yale University (a single-course, once a week Visiting Professorship). Spring, 1994.

Gerard Weinstock Visiting Professor of Jewish History, Harvard University. Fall 1998; Spring, 2004.

Distinguished Visiting Scholar, Ben Gurion University, May-June, 2004.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS, POSITIONS, AND ACTIVITIES:

Association for Jewish Studies:

President, 1998-2000.

Vice President: Membership. 1988-1992.

Treasurer. 1987-1988.

Vice-President: Program. 1985-1987.

Board of Directors. 1983-2006.

Conference Section Head, Medieval and Early Modern History and Literature, 2006-2007.

International Association of Historical Societies for the Study of Jewish History:

Chair of the American Section, 1991-c. 2000.

Governing Board, 1993-c. 2000.

Member of the Board of the American Section, 1985-c. 2000.

National Foundation for Jewish Culture, Academic Advisory Council.

Co-chair, 2002-2007.

Vice-Chair, 1996-2001.

Member, 1986-2007.

American Academy for Jewish Research:

Executive Committee, 1984-1986, 1992-present.

World Union of Jewish Studies:

Member of the Council, 1993-present.

The Tikvah Center for Law and Jewish Civilization, New York University:

Advisory Board, 2008.

*Jewish Quarterly Review:*

Editorial Board, 2008.

*Tradition:*

Editorial Board. 1986-present.

Yale Judaica Series:

Publications Committee. 1988-present.

Jewish Publication Society:

Editorial Committee. 1987-1988.

*Hadoar*:

Editorial Board. 1994-2002.

Great Books Foundation/Avi Chai Foundation Anthology of Jewish Literature

Editorial Committee, 1998-2000.

Rothberg School for Overseas Students, The Hebrew University:

Academic Advisory Committee, 1990-2007.

Twelfth World Congress of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem (1997).

Organizing Committee. History Division.

Hanadiv Charitable Foundation (now Rothschild Foundation Europe).

Committee to Evaluate the Institute for Advanced Studies in Jerusalem, 1999.

Academic Advisory Committee: Grant Program for Academic Jewish Studies in Europe,  
2004-present.

Tel Aviv University.

Committee to Evaluate Jewish Studies, 2001.

Cambridge History of Judaism: The Middle Ages.

Advisory Board, 2002-present.

Center for Online Jewish Studies.

Co-Section Head: Jewish History in Medieval Christian Europe, 2006-2007.

Jewish and Christian Perspectives Series. Brill Publishers. Advisory Board. 2006-present.

Consultant on Jewish History, McGraw Hill, 2007.

American Historical Association.

Medieval Academy of America.

AWARDS AND HONORS:

The John Nicholas Brown Prize for 1983. Awarded by the Medieval Academy of America for *The Jewish-Christian Debate in the High Middle Ages*.

Finalist, Jewish Book Award in Jewish Thought, 1999, for *Judaism's Encounter with Other Cultures: Rejection or Integration?* (co-author).

The Samuel Belkin Literary Award for 2003-2004. Awarded by the Yeshiva College Alumni Association for *The Rebbe, the Messiah, and the Scandal of Orthodox Indifference*.

The 1990 Bernard Revel Memorial Award to a distinguished alumnus in the Arts and Sciences. Awarded by the Yeshiva College Alumni Association.

Fellow. American Academy for Jewish Research. Elected 1990.

### PUBLICATIONS:

#### Books:

*The Jewish-Christian Debate in the High Middle Ages: A Critical Edition of the Nizzahon Vetus with an Introduction, Translation, and Commentary*. Jewish Publication Society, 1979. Softcover edition, Jason Aronson, 1996. Chosen for inclusion in the American Council of Learned Societies' History E-Books Project. Introduction reprinted in *Essential Papers on Judaism and Christianity in Conflict*, ed. by Jeremy Cohen, New York, 1991, pp. 484-513. (See Awards and Honors.)

*The Rebbe, the Messiah, and the Scandal of Orthodox Indifference*. Littman Library of Jewish Civilization, 2001. (See Awards and Honors.) Paperback edition forthcoming with a new, chapter-length introduction.

"*The Rebbe King Messiah,*" *the Scandal of Indifference, and the Threat to the Jewish Faith*. An expanded and updated Hebrew edition of *The Rebbe, the Messiah, and the Scandal of Orthodox Indifference*. Translated by the author. Jerusalem, 2005.

*Jews and "Jewish Christianity"* (with Michael Wyschogrod). Ktav, 1978. Russian translation by Mikhail Ryzhik, Ktav, 1991. Reprinted as *Jews and "Jewish Christianity": A Jewish Response to the Missionary Challenge*, Jews for Judaism (Toronto), 2002.

*Judaism's Encounter with Other Cultures: Rejection or Integration?* (with Gerald J. Blidstein, Sid Z. Leiman, and Aharon Lichtenstein). Edited by Jacob J. Schacter. Part II: Judaism and General Culture in Medieval and Early Modern Times (pp. 57-141). Jason Aronson, 1997. (See Awards and Honors.)

Editor. *The Legacy of Jewish Migration: 1881 and Its Impact*. Brooklyn College Press: Distributed

by Columbia University Press, 1983.

Editor. *History and Hate: The Dimensions of Anti-Semitism*. Jewish Publication Society, 1986. Softcover edition, 1997.

#### Booklet

*From Crusades to Blood Libels to Expulsions: Some New Approaches to Medieval Antisemitism*. The Second Victor J. Selmanowitz Memorial Lecture. Touro College Graduate School of Jewish Studies. 1997.

#### Articles:

“Reflections on Conversion and Proselytizing in Judaism and Christianity.” In the proceedings of Jewish-Presbyterian discussions, 2004-2006. Forthcoming.

“Texts, Values, and Historical Change: Reflections on the Dynamics of Jewish Law.” In the proceedings of a 2006 Cardozo Law School conference. Forthcoming.

“The Roots of Zionism in Classical Jewish Thought.” In the proceedings of a Queens College conference.

“Sephardic and Ashkenazic Messianism in the Middle Ages: An Examination of the Historiographical Controversy” (in Hebrew). Forthcoming in a still confidential *Festschrift*.

“*Nostra Aetate* after Forty Years: A Response to Bishop Richard J. Sklba.” *Studies in Jewish-Christian Relations*. Forthcoming.

“The ‘Jewish Contribution’ to Christianity.” In *The Jewish Contribution to Civilization: Reassessing an Idea*, ed. by Jeremy Cohen & Richard I. Cohen, Oxford and Portland, Oregon, 2007, pp. 80-97.

“Missing Milton Himmelfarb,” *Commentary* 123:4 (April, 2007): 54-58.

“Maccabees, Zealots, and Josephus: The Impact of Zionism on Joseph Klausner’s *History of the Second Temple*.” In *Studies in Josephus and the Varieties of Ancient Judaism: Louis H. Feldman Jubilee Volume*, ed. by Shaye J.D. Cohen and Joshua Schwartz. Leiden, 2006, pp. 15-27.

“The Institute for Jewish Studies on its Eightieth Anniversary” (in Hebrew). An address at the closing session of the Fourteenth World Congress of Jewish Studies. In *Jewish Studies* 43 (2005-2006): 29-36.

“Introducing Michael Wyschogrod,” *Modern Theology* 22 (2006): 673-675.

“Identity, Ideology, and Faith: Some Personal Reflections on the Social, Cultural and Spiritual Value of the Academic Study of Judaism.” In *Study and Knowledge in Jewish Thought*, ed. by Howard Kreisel, Beer Sheva, 2006, pp. 11-29.

“On the Spectrum of Messianic Belief in Contemporary Lubavitch Chassidism,” *Yated Ne’eman* (Israel) 18:28 (July 14, 2006): 18, 21-22, also published online in *Dei’ah veDibur: Information and Insight*, July 12, 2006:  
<http://chareidi.shemayisrael.com/archives5766/pinchos/olubavtchpnc66.htm>.

“Covenants, Messiahs, and Religious Boundaries.” A review essay of Irving Greenberg, *For the Sake of Heaven and Earth: The New Encounter between Judaism and Christianity*. *Tradition* 39:2 (2005): 66-78.

“Jews, Gentiles, and the Modern Egalitarian Ethos: Some Tentative Thoughts.” In *Formulating Responses in an Egalitarian Age*, ed. by Marc Stern, Lanham, 2005, pp. 83-108.

“The Uses of Maimonides by Twentieth-Century Jewry.” In *Moses Maimonides: Communal Impact, Historic Legacy*, ed. by Benny Kraut, New York, 2005, pp. 62-72.

“A Generation of Scholarship on Jewish-Christian Interaction in the Medieval World,” *Tradition* 38:2 (Summer, 2004): 4-14.

“Jews, Christians, and ‘The Passion’,” *Commentary* 117:5 (May, 2004): 23-31. Available at [http://www.bc.edu/research/cjl/meta-elements/texts/cjrelations/resources/reviews/berger\\_gibson.htm](http://www.bc.edu/research/cjl/meta-elements/texts/cjrelations/resources/reviews/berger_gibson.htm). Reprinted in the Gale Group’s *Contemporary Literary Criticism*, vol. 215 (2006). Rejoinder to letters, *Commentary* 118:2 (September, 2004): 10-13.

“A Gentler Tack on the Passion,” *Jewish Week* (November 21, 2003): 20.

“Revisiting ‘Confrontation’ After Forty Years: A Response to Rabbi Eugene Korn.” An online publication of the Boston College Center for Christian-Jewish Learning:  
[http://www.bc.edu/research/cjl/meta-elements/texts/center/conferences/soloveitchik/Berger\\_23Nov03.htm](http://www.bc.edu/research/cjl/meta-elements/texts/center/conferences/soloveitchik/Berger_23Nov03.htm).

“Who’s a Jew?” (a response to David Singer), *First Things* (October, 2003): 5-7.

“The Holocaust, the State of Israel, and the Catholic Church: Reflections on Jewish–Catholic Relations at the Outset of the Twenty-First Century” (in Hebrew), *Hadoar* 82:2 (January, 2003): 51-55.

“Counterpoint: Debating Messianism” (a response to Zalman Posner’s “The Splintering of Chabad”), *Jewish Action* 63:3 (Spring, 2003): 73-76.

“*Dabru Emet*: Some Reservations about a Jewish Statement on Christians and Christianity.” An online publication of the Boston College Center for Christian-Jewish Learning: <http://www.bc.edu/research/cjl/meta-elements/sites/partners/ccjr/berger02.htm>.

“Jacob Katz on Jews and Christians in the Middle Ages.” In *The Pride of Jacob: Essays on Jacob Katz and his Work*, ed. by Jay M. Harris, Cambridge, Mass., 2002, pp. 41-63.

“The Fragility of Religious Doctrine: Accounting for Orthodox Acquiescence in the Belief in a Second Coming,” *Modern Judaism* 22 (2002): 103-114.

“Responding to anti-Israel Rhetoric,” *Congress Monthly* 69:3 (May-June, 2002): 9-10.

“*Dominus Iesus* and the Jews,” *America* 185:7 (September 17, 2001): 7-12. Available at <http://www.bc.edu/research/cjl/meta-elements/texts/cjrelations/resources/articles/berger.htm>. Reprinted in *Sic et Non: Encountering Dominus Iesus*, ed. by Stephen J. Pope and Charles C. Hefling, New York, 2002, pp. 39-46.

“The Rebbe, the Jews, and the Messiah,” *Commentary* 112:2 (September, 2001): 23-30. Rejoinder to letters, *Commentary* 112:5 (December, 2001): 8-12.

“How Did Nahmanides Propose to Resolve the Maimonidean Controversy?” In *Meah She’arim: Studies in Medieval Jewish Spiritual Life in Memory of Isadore Twersky*, ed. by Ezra Fleischer et al., Jerusalem, 2001, pp. 135-146.

“On the Image and Destiny of Gentiles in Ashkenazic Polemical Literature” (in Hebrew). In *Facing the Cross: The Persecutions of 1096 in History and Historiography*, ed. by Yom Tov Assis et al., Jerusalem, 2000, pp. 74-91.

“Must a Jew Believe Anything?” A Review Essay. *Tradition* 33:4 (1999): 81-89.

“Reflections on the State of Religious Zionism,” *Jewish Action* 60:1 (Fall, 1999), pp. 12-15.

“The Image of his Father: On the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the Death of *Hadoar* Author Isaiah Berger” (in Hebrew), *Hadoar* 78:4 (3184), December 25, 1998, pp. 11-12.

“On the Uses of History in Medieval Jewish Polemic against Christianity: The Search for the Historical Jesus.” In *Jewish History and Jewish Memory: Essays in Honor of Yosef Hayim Yerushalmi*, ed. by E. Carlebach, J.M. Efron, and D.N. Myers, Hanover and London, 1998, pp. 25-39.

"The Sea Change in American Orthodox Judaism." *Tradition* 32:4 (1998): 27-31. A contribution to a symposium.

"On False Messianism, Idolatry, and Lubavitch" (Hebrew and English). *Haaretz*, Jan. 11, 1998. English reprinted in *The Australian Jewish News*, Feb. 13, 1998; Hebrew reprinted in *Hadoar*, Jan. 23, 1998.

"The Wisest of All Men': Solomon's Wisdom in Medieval Jewish Commentaries on the Book of Kings." In *Hazon Nahum: Studies in Jewish Law, Thought and History presented to Dr. Norman Lamm on the Occasion of his Seventieth Birthday*, ed. by Yaakov Elman and Jeffrey S. Gurock, New York, 1997, pp. 93-114.

"What Do American Jews Believe?" *Commentary* (August, 1996): 19-21. A contribution to a symposium.

"The Barcelona Disputation: A Review Essay." *AJS Review: The Journal of the Association for Jewish Studies* 20 (1995): 379-388.

"Just Between Us Mailbox: On 'The New Messianism...' by Dr. David Berger." *Jewish Action* 56:2 (Winter, 1995). Response, pp. 65-68.

"The New Messianism: Passing Phenomenon or Turning Point in the History of Judaism?" *Jewish Action* 56:1 (Fall, 1995): 34-44, 88.

"Christians, Gentiles, and the Talmud: A Fourteenth-Century Jewish Response to the Attack on Rabbinic Judaism." In *Religionsgespräche im Mittelalter*, ed. by Bernard Lewis and Friedrich Niewöhner, Wiesbaden, 1992, pp. 115-130.

"Reflections on the Six-Day War After a Quarter-Century." *Tradition* 26:4 (1992): 7-10. A contribution to a symposium.

"Divided and Distinguished Worlds." *Tradition* 26:2 (1992): 6-10. A contribution to a symposium. Criticism and response, *Tradition* 27:2 (1993): 91-94.

"Some Ironic Consequences of Maimonides' Rationalist Approach to the Messianic Age" (in Hebrew). *Maimonidean Studies* 2 (1991): 1-8 (Hebrew section). English translation in *The Legacy of Maimonides: Religion, Reason, and Community*, ed. by Yamin Levy and Shalom Carmy, New York, 2006, pp. 79-88.

"Modern Orthodoxy in the United States: A Review Essay." *Modern Judaism* 11 (1991): 261-272.

"Ramban." In *Great Figures in Jewish History*, ed. by Joseph Dan and Judy Baumel, Tel Aviv, 1991, pp. 77-84. (In Russian. Translated by the editorial staff.)



"On Freedom of Inquiry in the Rambam--and Today" (with Lawrence Kaplan). *The Torah U-Madda Journal* 2 (1990): 37-50.

"Religion, Nationalism, and Historiography: Yehezkel Kaufmann's Account of Jesus and Early Christianity." In *Scholars and Scholarship: The Interaction between Judaism and Other Cultures*, ed. by Leo Landman, New York, 1990, pp. 149-168.

"On Marriageability, Jewish Identity, and the Unity of American Jewry." In *Conflict or Cooperation? Papers on Jewish Unity*, New York, 1989, pp. 69-77.

"Response." In J. Gutmann *et al.*, *What Can Jewish History Learn From Jewish Art?*, New York, 1989, pp. 29-38.

"On Miracles and Nature in Nahmanides" (in Hebrew). *Da'at* 19 (1987): 169-170. A rejoinder.

"On the Morality of the Patriarchs in Jewish Polemic and Exegesis." In *Understanding Scripture: Explorations of Jewish and Christian Traditions of Interpretation*, ed. by Clemens Thoma and Michael Wyschogrod, New York, 1987, pp. 49-62. Reprinted in *Modern Scholarship in the Study of Torah: Contributions and Limitations*, ed. by Shalom Carmy, Northvale and London, 1996, pp. 131-146.

"Towards the Clarification of a Difficult Passage in R. Joseph Kara's Commentary to Isaiah" (in Hebrew). *Zion* 52 (1987): 114-116.

"Anti-Semitism: An Overview." In *History and Hate*, pp. 3-14.

"Mission to the Jews and Jewish-Christian Contacts in the Polemical Literature of the High Middle Ages." *American Historical Review* 91 (1986): 576-591.

"Three Typological Themes in Early Jewish Messianism: Messiah son of Joseph, Rabbinic Calculations, and the Figure of Armilus." *AJS Review: The Journal of the Association for Jewish Studies* 10 (1985): 141-164.

"The Study of the Early Ashkenazic Rabbinate" (in Hebrew). *Tarbiz* 53 (1984): 479-487. A review essay.

"Miracles and the Natural Order in Nahmanides." In *Rabbi Moses Nahmanides (Ramban): Explorations in his Religious and Literary Virtuosity*, ed. by Isadore Twersky, Cambridge, Mass., 1983, pp. 107-128.

"Jewish-Christian Relations: A Jewish Perspective." *Journal of Ecumenical Studies* 20 (1983): 5-32. Reprinted in *Essential Papers on Jewish-Christian Relations in the United States*, ed. by Naomi W.

Cohen, New York, 1990, pp. 328-361.

"The State of Orthodoxy." *Tradition* 20:1 (1982): 9-12. A contribution to a symposium.

"*Cum Nimis Absurdum* and the Conversion of the Jews." *Jewish Quarterly Review* 70 (1979): 41-49.

"Christian Heresy and Jewish Polemic in the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries." *Harvard Theological Review* 68 (1975): 287-303.

"Gilbert Crispin, Alan of Lille, and Jacob ben Reuben: A Study in the Transmission of Medieval Polemic." *Speculum* 49 (1974): 34-47.

"The Attitude of St. Bernard of Clairvaux toward the Jews." *Proceedings of the American Academy for Jewish Research* 40 (1972): 89-108.

"Malbim's Secular Knowledge and His Relationship to the Spirit of the Haskalah." *Yavneh Review* 5 (1966): 24-46.

"St. Peter Damian: His Attitude toward the Jews and the Old Testament." *Yavneh Review* 4 (1965): 80-112.

"Life Against Death in the Book of Ruth." *Gesher* 2 (1964): 41-44.

#### Encyclopedia Articles:

"Polemics, Medieval/ Anti-Christian," *Cambridge Dictionary of Judaism*. Forthcoming.

"Nizzahon Yashan, Sefer," *Oxford Dictionary of the Middle Ages*. Forthcoming.

"Polemics (Jewish), with Christians," *Oxford Dictionary of the Middle Ages*. Forthcoming.

"The Nizzahon Vetus." *The New Westminster Dictionary of Church History*. Forthcoming.

"Maimonides." *The New Westminster Dictionary of Church History*. Forthcoming.

"St. Bernard of Clairvaux." *Medieval Jewish Civilization: An Encyclopedia* (Routledge Encyclopedias of the Middle Ages, vol. 7), ed. by Norman Roth. 2002.

"The Barcelona Disputation." *The Oxford Dictionary of the Jewish Religion*. 1997.

"The Paris Disputation." *The Oxford Dictionary of the Jewish Religion*.

"Nahmanides." *The Encyclopedia of Religion* 10: 295-297. 1987.

"Jewish-Christian Polemics." *The Encyclopedia of Religion* 11: 389-395.

"Galut: The Jewish Conception of Exile." *Dictionary of the Middle Ages* 5: 346-347. 1985.

#### Reviews:

Jon D. Levenson. *Resurrection and the Restoration of Israel: The Ultimate Victory of the God of Life. Commentary* (February, 2007): 75-78.

Dov Schwartz. *Messianism in Medieval Jewish Thought. AJS Review* 24 (1999): 384-388.

B. Netanyahu. *The Origins of the Inquisition in Fifteenth-Century Spain. Commentary* 100:4 (October, 1995): 55-57.

Jacob Katz. *With My Own Eyes. Commentary* 100:1 (July, 1995): 58-60.

Howard M. Sachar. *Farewell Espana. The New York Times Book Review*, November 27, 1994.

Gavin Langmuir. *History, Religion and Antisemitism. The American Historical Review* 96 (1991): 1498-99.

Gedaliah Alon. *The Jews in their Land in Talmudic Times. The New York Times Book Review*, July 30, 1989, p. 21.

David Biale. *Power and Powerlessness in Jewish History. American Jewish History* 77 (1988): 654-658.

Hyam Maccoby. *Judaism on Trial: Jewish-Christian Disputations in the Middle Ages. Jewish Quarterly Review* 76 (1986): 253-257.

Jeremy Cohen. *The Friars and the Jews. AHR* 88 (1983): 93.

Jacob Haberman. *Maimonides and Aquinas: A Contemporary Appraisal. Jewish Social Studies* 44 (1982): 174-176.

Isadore Twersky. *Introduction to the Code of Maimonides (Mishneh Torah). AHR* 86 (1981): 109.

Daniel J. Lasker. *Jewish Philosophical Polemics Against Christianity in the Middle Ages.*

*Association for Jewish Studies Newsletter* 22 (March, 1978): 16-17, 19.

Lenn Evan Goodman. *Rambam: Readings in the Philosophy of Moses Maimonides*. *JSS* 38 (1976): 179-181.

Jacob Dienstag, ed. *Studies in Maimonides and St. Thomas Aquinas*. *JSS* 38 (1976): 85-87.

Column:

“Letter from the President,” *AJS Perspectives* 1 and 2 (1999 and 2000).

Letter:

On the expulsion of the Jews from Spain. *AHR* 78 (1973): 1163-1164.

Work in Progress:

*Medieval Jewry in Christian Lands* (working title). A book to be co-authored with William C. Jordan of Princeton University and published by Princeton University Press. Projected date of completion: December, 2007.

COMMUNAL ACTIVITIES:

Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, Committee on Hebrew in the Diaspora, Chair, 2003-present. Allocations Committee, 2004-present.

International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations.

Steering Committee. The Orthodox Forum.

Rabbinical Council of America, RAPID Committee (charged with responding to issues of the day) and Interfaith Committee.

Board of Trustees: The Orthodox Caucus.

Board: Brooklyn College Hillel Foundation, 2003-2007.